

Program emphasizes family

Starting this fall, Congregation B'nai Moshe, which has attracted many young families since its 1992 move from Oak Park to Drake Road in West Bloomfield, will offer non-member families in the metro Detroit Jewish community an opportunity to enroll in the synagogue's unique Jewish Family Education Program, Life Learning Is A Family Experience.

Non member families are invited to participate in the program for one academic year, following which they must elect either to join B'nai Moshe or withdraw from the Life program.

Non member families also will be charged a higher tuition fee than members of the congregation, because membership dues help to underwrite the costs of the Life program.

If a non member family decides to join B'nai Moshe during the try out year, the tuition

surcharge will automatically be credited toward their dues obligation.

B'nai Moshe's new one year community enrollment option is limited to families with children in Life grades kindergarten through grade 5 and is subject to availability of student slots.

Synagogue membership remains a prerequisite for assignment of Bar/Bat Mitzvah dates.

No one wishing to join B'nai Moshe is turned away for financial reasons.

If regular dues would pose a financial hardship, the synagogue is happy to assist prospective members in designing special arrangements and alternate payment plans, with sensitivity and in confidence.

B'nai Moshe's Life program is a Shabbat based program, featuring Saturday morning classes for children. It will also offer

Troop awards scouts honors

Scout, to Eric Weasles at first Presbyterian Church.

He follows in the footsteps of three scouts who achieved the rank of Eagle in February for the same troop: Matt Zimmer, Shaun Godwin and John Weasles. To earn this rank all scouts serve in leadership positions in the troop, earn a variety of merit badges, consistently demonstrate qualities of good citizenship and complete a significant Eagle Project.

Matthew Zimmer is a National Honor Society junior at Farmington High School. His sports interests include wrestling, weight lifting, swimming and basketball.

Shaun Godwin, a Farmington sophomore, is an honor roll student. He enjoys photography,

John Weasles is a junior at Brother Rice high school. His favorite subjects include science and math, and he is an avid athlete.

Fritz Schultes is a sophomore at North Farmington. He carries a 3.5 GPA and is a varsity wrestler and soccer player, and an aspiring football player. He is working toward admission to the U.S. Naval academy and a future as a navy pilot (Top Gun).

The troop court of honor recognized other scouts for their achievements.

Andrew Campbell was named Troop 179 Leader of the Year, and James Trenkle was presented with the Troop Guide Award. Advancing to the scout rank of life was Eric D. Johnson, Anthony Moran and Terry Tower. The

First class was attained by Sean Newton and Curtis Nichol. Second class was awarded to Curtis Nichol and Robert Easterday. Tenderfoot was awarded to Ryan Chatman, Andrew Dennis and Sean Montgomery.

Merit badges were awarded to Bradley Cox, Matthew Cox, Eric Johnson, Anthony Moran, Norman Nazarov, Charles Nichol, Benjamin Parr, Matt Rick, Brian Rippon, Dion Scripture, Daniel Shea, Terry Tower, James Trenkle and David Zohrab.

Troop 179 is sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church and meets each Tuesday evening in the fellowship hall on Farmington Road at Eleven Mile. It has been in existence over 30 years.

New minister at Hope

On Sunday, July 21, at the 11:00 a.m. service, Deborah Fergus will officially join the members and clergy of Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills.

This is the first congregation she has served on since graduating from the seminary, so she will be ordained as a minister of word and sacrament at this service.

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expression. And the abdominal movements are not about sex. They're about giving birth. Years ago in the Middle East,

girls were taught belly dancing from a young age in order to strengthen the muscles they would use later on to give birth. Such movements like the camel, the belly roll, and the flutter are taught in Lamaze classes. The camel is referred to in these classes as pelvic rocking; there are names for the other movements. But eight weeks really isn't enough to strengthen and learn to control these muscles enough to ease labor. That's why eastern cultures began teaching girls this form of exercise at a young age.

The artistic, undulating dance that arose from these movements was also performed by village women while another was in labor. The dancing women would form a semi circle around their pregnant comrade and would slowly build up the movements as labor pains increased and contractions occurred more quickly. The pregnant woman would follow their movements with her own in order to push the baby out as quickly and with as much ease as possible.

You don't have to be preparing for a child if you want to learn this beautiful, multi tempo dance that incorporates elaborate costumes, veils, zills and the natural beauty of a woman's body. In fact, many women per-

form it simply for their own enjoyment. And unlike in ballet where you need long legs and a short, flat torso, you don't have to have a certain body type.

Not only can you have any shape or size body, but you can be any age to learn Middle Eastern dance. al-Qamar has students ranging in age from 8 to 80. And you don't have to be Arabic, either.

If you're interested in learning more, there's a Middle Eastern Dance Seminar on Saturday, July 20, at the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills. It's being taught by Diane Kirkpatrick, also known on stage as Chandra of Damascus.

The seminar was put together by al-Qamar and her dance troupes, Foreign Intrigue and Isis, will perform. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for seniors and children under 14 for the seminar performances.

For the class taught by Kirkpatrick, tickets are \$50 for adults, \$25 for seniors and children. Money from souvenir videos of the dance concert will go to the Haven Women's Shelter in Pontiac. Call 313-495-3007 for more information.

Katherine Mushong works in Farmington Hills and has studied Middle Eastern dancing and culture.

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